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HARRIS LAWRENCE T
27 MONTEVIDEO 5399

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ACTION HA-05
INFO OCT-21 AFA-12 ISO-02 IO-12 EUR-12 NEA-12 CIAE-00
INR-27 USAF-02 PRS-01 PM-25 NSC-25 SP-02 SS-15
I-02 E-01 /292 W

EXCISE

3 193915Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5280
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. Man DATE 5/27/8
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. 11652: H008-2
TAGS: SHUN, UY, XT
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: RELEASE OF PRISONERS WHO CAN OBTAIN
ASYLUM IN WESTERN EUROPE
BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES WHICH INDICATES A GOU WILLINGNESS
TO RELEASE SOME PRISONERS ON A SELECTED BASIS IF THEY
OBTAIN ASYLUM IN A WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY. HOWEVER,
THE NUMBER OF SUCH PERSONS WHO MAY BE ALLOWED TO
LEAVE IS PROBABLY LIMITED AND THE GOU HAS MADE
NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.
2. THE EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED FROM RELATIVES OF SEVERAL
FEMALE PRISONERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TERMS,
BUT WHO ARE STILL CONFINED, THAT THESE PRISONERS HAD
BEEN OFFERED RELEASE ON TWO CONDITIONS: (1) THEY
OBTAIN ASYLUM IN A WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY, AND
(2) THEY PAY FOR THEIR upkeep DURING THEIR PAST
CONFINEMENT.

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3. THE EMBASSY THEREAFTER CANVASSED VARIOUS WEST
EUROPEAN EMBASSIES AND DETERMINED THAT THEY HAD RE-
CEIVED REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM FOR THESE PRISONERS THROUGH
RELATIVES, BUT HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY THE GOU.
ALTHOUGH ALL EMBASSIES EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO
CONSIDER CASES AND TO HELP UNOFFICIALLY OR, MORE
USUALLY, THROUGH U.N. REFUGEE PROGRAMS, THEY MADE
CLEAR THAT EX COUNTRIES ARE NOT WILLING TO GRANT
ASYLUM ON AN AUTOMATIC BASIS EITHER TO URUGUAYANS
OR THIRD COUNTRY-REFUGEES IN URUGUAY.
4. CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LOCAL UNDP AND INTERGOVERN-
MENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION REPRESENTA-
TIVES REVEALED THEIR AWARENESS OF THE GOU OFFERS TO
THE FEMALE PRISONERS. ~~THEY CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION~~
~~SUPPLIED BY THE EMBASSIES.~~

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3. CONCURRENTLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RECENTLY
APPROACHED THIS EMBASSY AND SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN
EMBASSIES, ASKING THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO
GRANTING REFUGE TO A DOZEN ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN
POLITICAL REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN URUGUAY, SOME OF WHOM
ARE IN PRISON ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~. THE MINISTRY
OFFERED TO RELEASE THOSE REFUGEE PRISONERS WHO
WERE NOT HELD FOR VIOLATIONS OF URUGUAYAN LAW.
THERE HAS BEEN NO COMPARABLE APPROACH BY THE GOV CON-

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CONCERNING POSSIBLE RELEASES OF URUGUAYAN PRISONERS.
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8. COMMENT. IN SUM, THESE FOUR SEPARATE REPORTS
INDICATE SOME GOV WILLINGNESS TO RELEASE POLITICAL
PRISONERS, IF THEY ARE GRANTED RESIDENCE IN WESTERN
EUROPE OR THE U.S. WHAT IS NOT CLEAR ARE THE NUMBERS
AND TYPES OF PRISONERS WHO MIGHT EVENTUALLY BENEFIT
FROM SUCH RELEASES, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT BOTH MAY PROVE
TO BE LIMITED.

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